

National Association of Victim Service Professionals in Corrections

November 2004
Volume 1, Issue 2

Inside this Issue

- 1 Introduction Officers
- 2 • The Washington Reentry Project
• NAVSPC Training Calendar
- 3-5 The Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision
- 6 Maine Reentry Network
- 7 NAVSPC Membership Application
- 8 Membership Application

Introduction

By Denise Giles

Dear Victim Service Provider:

As many of you know, over the years there has been a growing interest in a professional organization for corrections-based victim service providers nationally.

We are very excited to announce that we have been diligently working toward, what we feel, will be a very informative, supportive network in which colleagues can share promising practices, experiences and strategies. The network will strive to provide the best possible services within corrections for crime victims.

Here are some of the accomplishments in creating the "National Association of Victim Service Professionals in Corrections" to date.

A web site has been developed and can be found on www.groups.yahoo.com/group/DOCVictimServices/ for us to communicate as we continue developing the Association. It is at this web site that you can find the bylaws that have been drafted. The bylaws outline the purpose, membership categories, officers and committees, meeting schedule, etc.

NAVSPC is pleased to provide you with the second issue of its newsletter. ♦

A membership application for the "National Association of Victim Service Professionals in Corrections" is enclosed in this newsletter on page 7. We encourage you to join and be a part of this effort to unify Victim Services in Corrections Nationwide. ♦

In order to apply for 501C3 status, we need to have officers named, so until we can actually hold elections with the membership, the following individuals have been appointed to these acting positions:

Bill Stutz

Chairman/Treasurer
Washington State DOC
Home (360)-438-6909
westu49@hotmail.com

Denise Giles

Vice-Chairman
Maine DOC
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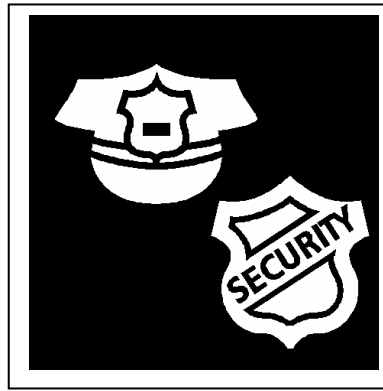
Going Home: the Washington State Reentry Project

By Candy Curl

Ed* is a 33 year old male who has spent time in the Eastern State Mental Hospital. After serving his recent incarceration at the Washington State Penitentiary (WSP) for first degree assault (attempted murder – domestic violence) he released to Spokane County through the Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative Going Home Project. Even as he released his threat was clear, “I will finish the job I started as soon as I get out!”

“We hear these threats everyday at WSP,” says Brian Maguire, Program Manager, “but, Ed’s threats were real. We had every confidence that he would do what he said he would do. I knew he would be back within 48 hours. I don’t ever remember any individual with that kind of threat making it on the outside.”

It has been one year since Ed has released to Spokane County. Yes, he has spent some time sitting in the county jail for minor infractions, but HE HAS NOT followed through on his threat. His victim has not been harmed, and he has not created any new victims. So what made the difference in Ed?



According to Percy Watkins, Community Advisor for the Spokane County Going Home Project, “Ed found someone to trust, someone he could confide in to work through his issues.” Sounds too simple, but through a Neighborhood Readiness Team of committed community volunteers from Ed’s own community, Ed connected with a stable environment for the first time in his life. The relationship between Ed and the Neighborhood Readiness Team in Spokane began prior to his release from WSP and continued from the day he released to the community. Team members showed up every single time they were scheduled to meet, and still meet weekly with Ed. Through these regular meetings, Ed developed a sense of hope, confirmed, affirmed and celebrated with his team.

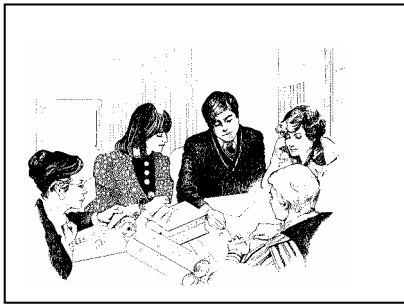
According to his mental health therapist, Ed has developed a strong and healthy Therapeutic Alliance with his team. Brian Maguire, the Program Manager from the Penitentiary agrees that Going Home, and particularly the Neighborhood Readiness Team model, “has made a significant and verifiable difference for Ed and for his victim.”

*Ed is not his real name

NVASPC NEEDS YOU!

We are looking for volunteers to work on establishing and maintaining the National Association of Victim Service Providers in Corrections (NAVSPC). This Association needs your help! We have been attempting to build this Association from the grass roots level, but just like any organizations it needs people who are willing to work on various committees, such as Membership, Publications, Publicity and Marketing. As you know corrections professionals working with victim and survivors of crime is a specialized and worthwhile career. We want to build this organization to be a strong voice for all those individuals working in this field. If you are interested in being on the ground level in building and strengthening this Organization, please contact Denise Giles, Maine Department of Corrections 111 State House Station Augusta, Maine 0433-0111 (207) 287-4385 or Bill Stutz, at NAVSPC, P.O.Box 3145 Lacey, WA 98509-3145, e-mail address wastu49@hotmail.com, Home phone (360) 438 6909.

“We hear these threats everyday at WSP”, says Brian Maguire, Program Manager, “but, Ed’s threats were real.”



The Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision Victims Participate and Voices Heard

By Pat Tuthill, *Ex-officio Victims' Representative*

The Interstate Compact Agreement for the Supervision of Adult Offenders was enacted in June 2002 when Pennsylvania became the 35th state to adopt compact legislation. The first inaugural meeting was held in Scottsdale, Arizona in November 2002 to adopt bylaws and establish the National Commission which is the governing authority of the new compact. The compact is a formal agreement between member states and has been adopted in 49 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico to regulate the transfer of adult offenders across state lines. It is anticipated that Massachusetts and the Virgin Islands will also become members of the compact.

The National Commission is comprised of a commissioner from each state who has been designated by the governor to represent the state. Each commissioner has a vote on the commission in establishing operating rules, adopting bylaws, ensuring compliance and enforcement. As designated in the bylaws, the membership also includes ex-officio members from the national governors' organization, legislators, state chief

justices, attorney generals and crime victims. The ex-officio victims' member also sits in on the executive committee of the commission. The composition of the commission provides a framework for all stakeholders to be informed.

The new compact replaces an antiquated and ineffective compact that was adopted in 1937 when there were only a few thousand offenders transferring between states compared to more than an estimated 250,000 today. By its terms, member states agreed to certain principles regarding the movement of adult probationers and parolees from one state (the sending state) to another state (the receiving state). There were key principles that states agreed to that would allow under certain circumstances, parolees or probationers to be sent to another state and the receiving states would assume supervision of parolees or probationers.

History has tragically shown what happens when the criminal justice system ignores public safety. Practitioners and victims expressed concerns about public safety and in 1998, the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) advisory board, following several public hearings, directed its staff to begin pursuing a revision of the compact. Through the development of an Advisory Group, NIC facilitated a discussion among state officials and corrections policy experts, arriving at a list of recommendations for improvement to the existing interstate compact. Through a partnership with The Council of State Governments (CSG), NIC and CSG developed and facilitated a drafting team of state officials to design a revised interstate compact – one that would include a modern administrative structure, that provided for rule-making and rule-changing over time, that required the development

of a modern data collection and information sharing system among the states, and one that was adequately funded to carry out its tasks safely.

Shortly after the NIC advisory board met, the need for a new interstate compact to track the location of offenders, transfer supervision authority in an orderly and efficient manner, and when necessary return the offenders to the originating jurisdictions, became clear on February 24, 1999 when a young graduate student, Peyton Tuthill was murdered in her apartment. The criminal justice system permitted a 22-year old convicted armed robber in Maryland to be released unsupervised just 23 months into his 10-year sentence. Donta Paige applied to a residential drug treatment center, in Denver, Colorado based on recommendations from fellow inmates. Four months later 24 year-old Peyton Tuthill came home at noon after interviewing with the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, and to take out her springier spaniel, Maggie. When she entered the apartment she encountered Paige who broke into her apartment and Peyton never left again. He stabbed her 17 times, sexually assaulted her several times and tortured her as he cut off her wrists and slit her throat to silence her screams. Maryland officials pointed fingers between the Department of Corrections and the judicial in trying to assess blame for how and why Paige was able transfer from Maryland to Colorado for treatment without Colorado official having any knowledge that an offender was sent to their state.

There are many other tragedies where inadequate supervision, lack of training and inappropriate procedures has resulted in homicide, domestic violence and sexual assault. Regarding domestic

violence, the significance of this situation was highlighted by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) in 1996 reporting that women experienced an estimated 840,000 rapes, sexual assaults, robberies, aggravated assaults and simple victimizations at the hands of an intimate partner. In the same year, females were the victims of three out of four murders of intimate partners and about 85% of the victims of non-lethal intimate violence. Also, four in ten inmates serving time in jail for intimate partner violence had a criminal history status – on probation or parole or under a restraining order at the time of the violent attack on an intimate partner. (Characteristics of Crime,” Summary Findings, BJS (February, 1999).)

Victims and victim services providers have supported the effort for a new compact to provide for public safety and enforce victims’ rights. Article I of the bylaws states “the purpose of the compact is to provide a framework for the promotion of public safety and protect the rights of victims through the control and regulation of the interstate movement of offenders in the community and manage the movement between states of adults placed under supervision and released to the community; to provide for effective tracking, supervision, and rehabilitation of these offenders by the sending and receiving state:.” The commission is responsible for monitoring compliance with ISC rules and bylaws and the authority to enforce compliance. Both an informal and formal dispute resolution system has been established to ensure states adhere to compact regulations. Member states that refuse to comply face sanctions, fines and may be taken to federal court to force

compliance. It is no longer a “toothless tiger.”

The old compact was named the Interstate Compact for Supervision of Parolees and Probationers. In the new compact “parolees and probationers” has been replaced with the word “offender” to expand and provide for the inclusion of many new community supervision options and programs now utilized by sentencing authorities. An offender is defined in the new rules as “an adult placed under, or made subject to, supervision as the result of the commission of a criminal offense and released to the community under the jurisdiction of courts, paroling authorities, corrections, or other criminal justice agencies, and who is required to request transfer of supervision under the provisions of the ICAOS.”

Many states do not supervise misdemeanors and what is classified as a misdemeanor in one state may be a felony in another state. And there are many cases where charges particularly involving domestic violence are plead down from a felony to a misdemeanor and these offenders have been permitted to move out of state without supervision. The issue of misdemeanant supervision is complex and has been very controversial among member states of the new compact. States have compromised to establish a rule to govern the supervision and transfer of certain misdemeanor offenders under the ISC. How this class of offenders is supervised will be on the agenda again at the next annual meeting of the commission.

It is essential that the rules and operation of the new compact be effectively administered in accordance with the purpose and need for the Interstate Compact.

During the first two years of compact operations, victims have played a major role in the development of rules by expressing concerns, participating in rule making discussions and providing recommendations to the National Commission service. Our voices were heard when we told of how victims, families and communities live in fear of offenders re-victimizing them or threaten public safety.

The ISC bylaws require that each state establish a state council to act in an advisory capacity to the commissioner of each state. Each council must have a victim representative as a member. Many states have established their councils and have held meetings; however there are a number of states that have not established their councils. Please see the end of this article for a list of states that have not established a state council as of September 2004 and express your concern to the commissioner of your state and your governor.

State councils with victim representation are critical to keep public safety and victim concerns as the focus when decisions are made affecting policies, rules, and compliance. The challenge we face is to establish a unified process and position to further advance public safety with transferring offenders across state borders, and provide opportunities for offenders to successfully rehabilitate and re-enter into society. All stakeholders must be informed.

Why are State Councils Vital for Success and Victim Representation?

- Elevate importance of the Compact and the need to comply nationally.
- Advisory capacity to the Commissioner before voting and policy changes.
- Identify areas of concern.

- Identify audiences for training/education.
- Identify need for any additional legislation.
- Protect public safety and protect the rights of victims
- Enhance the public’s awareness of the Compact’s mission, goals, and policies.
- Ensure compliance

For those states that have not established their councils, it is imperative this be done as soon as possible. If your state has not setup its council yet, please contact your commissioner and governor to express your concern and interest. As of September 1, 2004 the following are without state councils:

- Connecticut
- Mississippi
- New Mexico
- Delaware
- New Hampshire
- Puerto Rico
- Georgia
- New Jersey
- Vermont
- Maine
- New York

Victims Voices Heard

Commissioners demonstrated commitment to public safety and victims during the rulemaking process. In a “one size fits all” compact, commissioners faced many challenges in making and voting on rules. The rule makers acted to establish rules for victims to be notified and to have the right to comment and be heard. Significant rules are now in place that directly affects the quality of life for all of us and our safety.

- Victims who have registered have the right to notification when an offender transfers to another state by notifying registered victim (s) through the State’s notification authority in

accordance with its own laws.

- Victims right to be heard and comment when offender request to transfer. Registered victims shall be notified and informed of their right to be heard and comment. Victims may express their concerns to notification authority or compact office
- Victims’ comments shall remain confidential.
- Offenders will be required to comply with any offender registration and DNA testing requirements in accordance with the laws or policies of the receiving state
- When a temporary travel permit is issued to offenders whose supervision has been designated a “victim-sensitive” matter, the victim must be notified.

There are a number of other significant public safety and victim protection concerns that have been addressed in the ISC rules:

1. Sex offender identification is required in the application to transfer;
2. Probation officers must notify offenders who are not in compliance with restitution orders that they are in violation of their release and direct them to send payments to the sending state for payment to the victim.
3. Recognition and enforcement of protection orders and no contact orders has been established.
4. States must provide timely departure and arrival notices required to report arrival or failure of offenders to arrive; thereby, allowing states to take appropriate action to locate an offender.

While there has been significant progress with controlling offender movement throughout the country, the new system is far from perfect.

Victims make a difference in the process as policymakers and victims learn to collaborate. Through collaboration and unity victims can have an active role in the quality of life for our families and communities.

There are many concerns and issues the National Commission must address regarding offender movement from state to state. The new compact represents the first significant step in doing so since the Parole and Probation Compact Administrators’ Association put the old compact in a manual and tried with a volunteer organization to establish rules and enforce compliance without having the clear cut authority to do either. There are a number of issues that are controversial among the states and continue to be reviewed to determine the best course of action the commission should take in promulgating rules. Some of the major issues are the supervision of misdemeanants, the definition of “supervision”, and temporary travel. These issues will be addressed at the annual commission meeting scheduled this fall for October 25 and 27 in Atlanta, GA. Issues involving the interstate movement of offenders are complex and information on the compact, its rules, meetings, opinions and a directory of commissioners may be reviewed at the commission’s web site www.adultcompact.org



Maine Reentry Network

By Denise Giles

The Maine Reentry Network is a multi-systemic partnership of public and private organizations at the state, county and local levels working together to promote the successful transition of serious and violent young offenders from correctional facilities back into their communities. The Network goals are to hold offenders accountable to their victim and community, to prevent crime, and to reduce the likelihood of reoffending. Public safety and restorative justice principles are central to transitioning offenders into the community. Key program components include quality in-facility programs, Integrated Reentry Team Planning, seamless facility/community transition services, and local mentoring and services for returning offenders. Treatment, education/training, and employability services are promoted during the ex-offender's time in the correctional facility, followed by services and education or employment opportunities upon release. Facility and DOC community staff as well as community providers partner with the ex-offender and his/her family or significant natural support network to coordinate a transition from facility services to community support. A neutral facilitator or Reentry Specialist convenes the team meetings during which a strengths-based, comprehensive plan of services and supports is drafted to address community safety and twelve individual life domains. The Maine Reentry Network recruits, trains, and provides a mentor for each reentering young ex-offender as a source of powerful, positive support and relationship. Ideally, the Network builds on already-existing relationships. However, new sponsors are also recruited from employers, faith-based organizations, community service organizations, area agencies, and volunteer groups. Mentors receive comprehensive training and support throughout their involvement. Victim wraparound teams are also provided.

As offenders are identified/referred to the re-entry team, notification is sent to the Victim Services Coordinator, who assigns it to a Victim Advocate. The Victim Advocate contacts the victim and provides information about the re-entry program and completes a victim impact statement. The Advocate determines whether or not the victim is interested in participating in a wraparound meeting, offers notification services to the victim. The advocate then contacts the appropriate community resources to request their participation in the wraparound meeting. The Victim Advocate maintains contact with the reentry team to keep the victim informed during all phases of re-entry, whether or not the victim wishes to participate in a wraparound meeting. The Victim Advocate will assist the victim with a personal safety plan if the victim decides not to participate in the meeting.

Maine was selected as 2 of the 19 National SVORI Evaluation sites and the only truly rural sites in the study. Therefore, it is critical that we get every referral possible to be maintained in the study, especially for the juveniles. An expansion grant has been submitted and is pending selection for Cumberland and Kennebec Counties. It would also expand to SCC candidates, women of all ages in the 6 counties and provide transitional case management one day a week at CMPRC.

Funding has been extended to June 2006 and a Congressional bill has been submitted to expand the programs and to extend them for as much as 10 years. Persons medium and high risk of recidivism who are ages 16-25 from (home or court) or transitioning to Knox, Androscoggin, Penobscot, or Washington Counties are eligible. Referrals are accepted 6-18 months prior to release from PO, JCCO, facilities (usually caseworkers), and classification directors at juvenile facilities.

The Maine Reentry Network recruits, trains, and provides a mentor for each reentering young ex-offender as a source of powerful, positive support and relationship.

“Did you Know...”

“Marian Lindsey, the Victim Services Director of South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services retired on September 30, 2004.”

“Bill Stutz, Manager of the Washington State Victim Witness Program has retired after 33 years of service on September 30, 2004. Bill will stay very involved in assisting with the development of this Association and is available through his home e-mail address of westu49@hotmail.com. Feel free to contact Bill any time. We wish him the very best in a well deserved retirement.”



National Association of Victim Service Professionals in Corrections Membership Application

____/____/____
DATE

NAME

HOME ADDRESS:

CHECK HERE FOR PREFERRED MAILING ADDRESS

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP CODE

AREA CODE/PHONE

E-MAIL ADDRESS

WORK ADDRESS:

CHECK HERE FOR PREFERRED MAILING ADDRESS

POSITION/TITLE

AGENCY/CORPORATION

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP CODE

AREA CODE/PHONE AREA CODE/FAX

E-MAIL ADDRESS

Description of Membership Categories

- ❖ **Support Membership:**
 - This membership is aimed towards Directors of Correctional Agencies (Director, Commissioner, Secretary)
- ❖ **National Membership**
 - This membership is aimed towards Official Representatives of National Associations
- ❖ **Associate Membership**
 - This membership is aimed towards students in an accredited academic institution
- ❖ **Community-Based Victim Service Providers**
 - This membership is aimed towards Non Government agencies providing Victim Service or Advocacy
- ❖ **Allied Correctional Organizations**
 - This membership is aimed towards Law Enforcement and Correctional Agencies
- ❖ **Professional Corrections-Based V/S Providers Charter**
 - This membership is aimed towards Prison and Institution employees
- ❖ **Corrections-Based Victim Service Program**
 - This membership is aimed towards correction based victim services programs with staff of five or less

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES: (U.S. and U.S. Territories)

- ❖ Support Membership (Directors) \$75
- ❖ National Association Representatives \$50
- ❖ Associate Memberships (students) \$15
- ❖ Community-Based Victim Service Providers \$15
- ❖ Allied Correctional Organizations \$50
- ❖ Professional Corrections-Based Victim Service Providers Charter \$35
 - 3-Year \$75
 - Life \$250
- ❖ Corrections-Based Victim Services Program (up to 5 staff) \$75

SIGNATURE

MAIL COMPLETED FORM AND PAYMENT TO:

Bill Stutz, Chairman and Treasurer
P.O. Box 3145
Lacey, WA 98509-3145

BULK RATE
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